

ADiM Doctoral & Postdoctoral Colloquium
Safe Countries, Unsafe Procedures?
Asylum, Returns, Due Process and Separation of Powers under Scrutiny
Lampedusa, 8–9 October 2026

CALL FOR PAPERS

The 2026 *Doctoral & Post-Doctoral Colloquium* of the [Academy of Law and Migration \(ADiM\)](#), organized in cooperation with the [Jean Monnet Centre of Excellence on the integration of migrants in Europe \(IntoME\)](#) will take place on **8 and 9 October 2026** in Lampedusa. Like the previous editions, the Colloquium aims to enhance the scientific contribution of early-career researchers in migration and asylum studies — PhD candidates, postdoctoral researchers, research fellows and early-career scholars — by promoting an interdisciplinary debate with senior scholars.

Topics

The 2026 edition of the ADiM Doctoral & Postdoctoral Colloquium focuses on the legal, institutional and practical implications of the notions of safe country of origin (SCO) and safe third country (STS) in asylum and migration law.

These notions have become central tools in the design and implementation of accelerated and border asylum procedures. They allow public authorities to rely on general assessments concerning the safety of countries of origin or transit in order to streamline the examination of asylum applications, manage pressure at the external borders, and facilitate return policies. At the same time, their growing importance raises crucial questions concerning procedural fairness, access to effective remedies, the intensity of judicial review, the relationship between legislation, administration and courts.

The adoption and implementation of the EU Pact on Migration and Asylum, together with recent legislative and judicial developments concerning safe country concepts, make these issues particularly timely. Safe country rules have become a crucial testing ground for the balance between efficiency and rights protection, between general legislative choices and individual assessment, and between political responsibility and judicial control.

The Colloquium invites papers addressing the role of safe country concepts in accelerated and border procedures. Papers may also explore the broader institutional tensions generated by these notions, including the question of whether ordinary courts may reassess general safety determinations made by legislative authorities, and how such judicial review should be framed in light of separation of powers and the rule of law.

The scope of the call is intended broadly. Proposals may also address related issues concerning returns, return hubs, asylum offshoring, externalisation of asylum and migration procedures, cooperation with third countries, and the interaction between safe country concepts and models of extraterritorial or quasi-extraterritorial processing.

Research areas and questions

The Colloquium welcomes proposals from different disciplinary perspectives, including international law, EU law, constitutional law, administrative law, comparative law, legal theory, political science, sociology, international relations and migration studies.

Submissions may cover, inter alia, the following themes:

- the legal functions of SCO and STS concepts in asylum and migration law;
- safe country concepts under the EU Pact;
- accelerated and border procedures: efficiency, fairness and procedural guarantees;
- due process, access to justice and effective judicial protection;
- non-refoulement, individual assessment and rebuttable presumptions of safety;
- judicial review of safe country designations: scope, intensity and institutional limits;
- SCO and the separation of powers between legislature, administration and judiciary;
- the role of national courts, constitutional courts, the Court of Justice of the European Union and the European Court of Human Rights;
- STS, transit countries and cooperation with non-EU States;

- return procedures, return hubs and the externalisation of migration control;
- asylum offshoring, extraterritorial processing and the Italy-Albania Protocol;
- administrative capacity, implementation gaps;
- detention and alternatives to detention in border and return procedures.

How to apply

Candidates may apply by **15 June 2026** by sending their proposals to:

accademia.immigrazione@gmail.com

Each proposal shall include:

- an abstract in Italian or English, 400 words maximum;
- a short bio, 200 words maximum.

Successful applicants will be notified by **20 June 2026**.

Selected participants will be invited to:

- present and discuss their paper at the Doctoral & Postdoctoral Colloquium in Lampedusa, interacting with scholars and senior experts in the field;
- revise their paper in light of the feedback received during the Colloquium, with a view to possible publication in a scientific journal, edited volume or specialized academic blog.

The preliminary paper to be presented at the Colloquium shall be sent by **20 September 2026** to the above-mentioned email address.

Selection process and criteria

The selection process will follow these criteria:

- originality of the research question and perspective;
- critical/problematic rather than merely descriptive approach;
- methodological consistency;
- interdisciplinary relevance;
- clarity of the proposed argument;
- geographic and gender balance.

Contribution to expenses & publication

The organization will cover the **travel and accommodation expenses** of the selected candidates up to 400 €. Further information and organizational details will be provided at a later stage.

The best contributions will be published in specialized journals, scientific blogs or collective volumes edited by ADiM.

Timeline

- 20 June 2026: deadline of the call and for sending paper proposals
- 30 June 2026: notification to the successful candidates
- 20 September 2026: deadline for sending the preliminary paper to be presented at the Colloquium in Lampedusa
- 8–9 October 2026: Colloquium in Lampedusa

Scientific Committee

Marco Borraccetti, University of Bologna

Elisa Cavasino, University of Palermo

Madalina Moraru, University of Bologna

Mario Savino, University of Tuscia

Organizing Committee

Giampiero Cassola, University of Tuscia

Giulia del Turco, University of Tuscia

Please direct any questions to:

accademia.immigrazione@gmail.com